

## Message Text

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SUBJ: ADDERLEY INTERVIEW: FISHERIES

1. FOLLOWING IS AN EDITED VERSION OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY DURING WEEK OF JAN. 5 TO AN UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER FOR THE MIAMI HERALD. INTERVIEW APPEARED IN SUNDAY, JAN. 11 EDITION OF THE HERALD. FOR CONVENIENCE AND REFERENCE PURPOSES, INTERVIEW HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO THREE PARTS AND THE PORTION ON FISHERIES IS REPEATED BELOW. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.

Q. WHY DID THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT DECLARE THE SPINY LOBSTER A CREATURE OF THE BAHAMAS BANKS AND MAKE IT OFF-LIMITS TO NON-BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN?

A. IT IS GENERALLY RELATED TO THE NATURE OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE EMBARKED UPON A DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMY AND FISHING HAPPENS TO BE THE WAYS IT CAN BE DONE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE, A LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

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WE BELIEVE FROM A LONG-RANGE POINT OF VIEW, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH LOBSTER THERE FOR US TO SHARE WITH ANYBODY ELSE.

Q. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY CUBAN EXILE AND OTHER FISHERMEN WILL BE ABLE TO FISH THE BAHAMAS BANKS ON A LIMITED BASIS?

A. NOT LIKELY, NO.

Q. THEN IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TALKS WITH THE U.S. LAST SUMMER ABOUT WORKING OUT SOME ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD ENABLE U.S.-BASED FISHERMEN TO FISH THE BAHAMAS BANKS WERE AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY TO BEGIN WITH?

A. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, I SUPPOSE THAT IS TRUE.

Q. IT WAS THE IMPRESSION HERE THAT THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT TRUCCULENT IN THE TALKS.

A. THAT'S THE WRONG WORD, I SUPPOSE, TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION. WE ALWAYS FELT THAT OUR POSITION WASN'T BEING UNDERSTOOD ON THE U.S. SIDE.

Q. BY THE NEGOTIATORS OR BY U.S. PUBLIC OPINION?

A. BY THE NEGOTIATORS.

Q. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE SPINY LOBSTER ARE STILL INTENDED, ARE THEY NOT?

A. OH, NO, NO, NO. AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS THE PROSPECT OF TALKS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT OVER FISHING BUT THEY WILL NOT BE OVER SPINY LOBSTER. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AND POSSIBLE TALKS WITH THE CUBANS. IN FACT, WHEN THE SUBJECT WAS FIRST BROUGHT TO ME BY THEIR (CUBAN) VICE MINISTER IN CARACAS AT THE 1974 LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, I MADE IT QUITE PLAIN TO HIM AT THE TIME THAT ANY TALKS WE MIGHT EVER HAVE WOULD NOT APPLY TO SPINY LOBSTER.

Q. YOU SEEM TO BE SUGGESTING THAT THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY WHATEVER IN THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION?

A. WITH REGARD TO THE SPINY LOBSTER, OR WITH REGARD TO FISHING GENERALLY IN THE BAHAMAS, YES, THAT IS TRUE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE TALKS WITH CUBA? WOULD THEY BE IN TERMS OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE BAHAMIAN FISHING INDUSTRY?

A. WELL, CUBA ORIGINATED THE INVITATION TO DISCUSS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BAHAMAS TO ALLOW THEIR (CUBAN) FISHERMEN TO FISH IN THE BAHAMAS. WE SAID TO THEM: YES, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT BY THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ON THE  
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ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE, PROVIDED IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TALKS WITH REGARD TO AGREEMENT OVER THE SPINY LOBSTER. (IN ITS SIMPLEST TERMS THE ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE ARGUES THAT A MULTI-ISLAND NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD EXTEND TO ALL WATERS WITHIN LINES CONNECTING THE OUTER-MOST POINT OF EACH ISLAND).

Q. HAVE THE CUBANS OFFERED TO GIVE YOU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING YOUR FISHING INDUSTRY?

A. YES.

Q. AND YOU HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO THAT?

A. IT WAS PUT TO US WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL FISHING AGREEMENT IN WHICH THEY SAID "WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ALLOW OUR FISHERMEN TO FISH IN THE BAHAMAS IN CONSIDERATION FOR WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BAHAMAS.

Q. WERE THE SPINY LOBSTER TALKS WITH THE U.S. A SHAM IN THE SENSE THAT THE AMERICANS KNEW THE OUTCOME PRIOR TO THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. IF THEY DIDN'T, THEY SHOULD HAVE.

Q. WAS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT THE TALKS WERE HELD FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS IN THE US?

A. I GOT THAT IMPRESSION IF ONLY FROM THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THE TALKS.

Q. YOU MEAN IT WAS A LOW-LEVEL DELEGATION?

A. YES. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT AS A RESULT OF THAT, THEY KNEW BEFOREHAND WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE.

Q. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA (WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED IN LATE 1974)?

A. NONE, I DON'T SUPPOSE.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE RECENT ARREST AND JAILING OF FISHERMEN FROM CUBA? HAVE YOUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA SUFFERED?

A. NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW. I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO THINK THAT THEY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. THIS RECENT INCIDENT, OF COURSE, WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT CUBANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, CHARGED AND CONVICTED FOR ILLEGALLY FISHING IN THE BAHAMAS.

Q. DO YOU GET THE FEELING THAT THE CUBAN OFFICIALS WERE DISPLEASED BY THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS HANDLED?

A. NO. THEY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I TOLD THEM ABOUT WHAT OUR POSITION WAS. THEY CAME TO NASSAU, IN FACT, TO DISCUSS THE POSITION WITH US. THEY CAME TO ASSURE US THAT THE PRESENCE OF ANY CUBAN FISHERMEN WITHIN OUR FISHING ZONE WAS ENTIRELY UNCLASSIFIED  
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ACCIDENTAL AND IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FISHERMEN TO FISH IN THE BAHAMAS.

Q. IF THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRACTICAL EFFECTS FROM ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, WHY DO SO?

A. WELL, THEY ARE PERHAPS THE CLOSEST GEOGRAPHICAL NEIGHBOR TO THE BAHAMAS, EVEN CLOSER THAN THE U.S., AND WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ON A FRIENDLY BASIS ANY LITTLE PROBLEMS THAT ARISE WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS.

Q. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN CUBA?

A. WE DON'T HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN CUBA. WE AGREED TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS IN THE UN.

Q. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUGGESTION THAT THE BAHAMAS HAS ONE POLICY FOR CUBAN EXILE FISHERMEN AND ANOTHER POLICY FOR FISHERMEN FROM CUBA. HOW DO YOU ANSWER THAT?

A. THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE POLICY IS EXACTLY THE SAME WITH REGARD TO ANY FOREIGN NATIONALS FISHING IN THE BAHAMAS. IT HAPPENS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MORE FISHERMEN FROM FLORIDA THAN

FROM CUBA CHARGED AND CONVICTED IN OUR COURTS BECAUSE MORE  
FISHERMEN FROM FLORIDA THAN FROM CUBA HAVE BEEN CAUGHT.  
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